

~~SECRET~~

भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

फाइल सं०
File No. C/125/5/77-31

284

Volume

विभाग
Ministry of

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS विभाग
कार्यालय

विभाग
Department of EAST ASIA DN

विषय/पत्राचार
NOTES/CORRESPONDENCE

अनुभाग
SECTION

विषय
Subject

Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 6254
tabled by Shri Samat Luba, MP & to be
answered on 4.8.77. regarding Air Crash
involving Netaji SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE.

को सूचीकृत को गई
Indexed on

हस्ताक्षर
Initials

प्रलेख क/ख
Record A/B

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Keep till 1990.

12-4-1985

पिछले हवाले
Previous References

बाद के हवाले
Later References

DECLASSIFIED

SCANNED

Notes- 1-4
Correspondence - 1-48

(नौनम गुप्ता)
(GAUTAM GUPTA)
उप सचिव (वि. एवं आ. वि.)
By Secretary (A.S. & A.)
वि. एवं आ. वि. विभाग
Ministry of External Affairs
New Delhi

1 copy
16/12/85
APPROVED

(1)

MOST IMMEDIATE
PARLIAMENT QUESTION
(LOK SABHA)

Ministry of External Affairs
(East Asia Division)

Reference Unstarred Question No.6254 tabled by Shri Samar Guha to be answered on 4.8.1977 regarding Air crash involving Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

Questions relating to the death of Netaji are handled by the Ministry of Home Affairs since Dec.1973. Prior to that date this Ministry was responsible. When we received Advance Notice of the above Question, we took immediate steps to transfer it to the Ministry of Home Affairs. Unfortunately, there was an initial reluctance on their part to accept the transfer and Secretary (East) in our Ministry had to write to the Home Secretary, with a copy to the Lok Sabha Secretariat. The eventual acceptance by the Ministry of Home Affairs of their responsibility to answer this question, however, reached the Lok Sabha Secretariat only after the final printed list of questions had already been circulated to Members and Ministries. Hence the Lok Sabha Secretariat retained the original allocation to the Ministry of External Affairs.

2. I understood from the Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Shri N.K. Sinha, who deals with this subject, that the Minister of Home Affairs is himself due to make a statement in the Lok Sabha on a No-Day-Yet-Named Motion, which may come up on 3rd August. Questions similar to the ones now asked by Shri Guha may figure in the discussions, which may follow the Minister's statement.

3. As for the questions posed by Shri Samar Guha on whether the two bodies, viz. the Shah Nawaz Committee and the Khosla Commission, consulted papers maintained by Lord Mountbatten, which, according to him, may contain information relating to the air crash in which Netaji lost his life, on our enquiry with our High Commission in London in 1971, we were told that the information said to be in possession of the UK authorities is in the category of War-time Intelligence and as they were still classified at the time, a formal request may have to be made to the UK authorities.

Contd....2

(2)

4. In any case, the Khosla Commission which was specially appointed by the Government in 1970, made an exhaustive investigation and its report, which was published in 1974 and also placed before Parliament, came to the conclusion that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose died in an air crash on 18.8.1945 at Taihoku Airport in Taiwan. Since the publication of the Khosla Commission's report, Government's standard reply in Parliament has been that Government has examined the Report and decided to accept the findings of the Report.

5. Accordingly, a draft reply has been prepared which has been informally cleared with the Ministry of Home Affairs. The draft answer is in line with the "Memorandum of Action" taken by the Government after Cabinet approval, which was also placed along with the Khosla Commission's Report on the table of both the Houses of Parliament on 3rd September, 1974.

1288-75/12/1973
3/8

Some reference papers prepared by H.H.A. are also in the file.

G. Jayachidra
(C.V. Ranganathan)
Joint Secretary (N&EA)
2.8.1977

Parliament Section, MEA.

2870/Parl/22
3-8-

PM

he cannot do a ref. to the draft letter papers than the far amended the draft which is for approval.

Uthappa
2.8.77

Dyn. No. 81-Parl-77 (B)
2-8-77

PM. K. Narayana
3/8

3/8

Ministry of External Affairs

Discussed with Sec. (E) who further consulted Principal Secretary to P.M. A minor change in the draft reply has been carried out. Pl. file for answer in L.S. G. Jayachidra 3.8.77

D-1291-US (FE) 122
3/8

Parliament Section

Parl. Asst. took 2 copies of the final version of the answer. He did not want to retain this file. U.S (FE) may kindly have all papers (from H.H.A. etc.) filed carefully, including the draft answer as corrected by Principal Secy. to P.M. G. Jayachidra 3.8.77
U.S (FE)

③

-3-

As desired by JS(FA), JS(FA) may kindly see the file.

I am sending a copy of the reply to Shri M.K. Sinha, JS. MHA for ~~his~~ his information.

No. 1840-~~SL~~ 2750
6/8

ML
4/8

~~JS(FA)~~

Thanks

Madhu Bhaduri
4/8/77

~~U.S. FE~~

ML
6/8

~~EAD~~
KKE

Ministry of External Affairs

(East Asia Div.)

Placed below are a copy each of the report submitted by the Shah Nawaz Committee (1956) and the Khosla Commission (1974) set up to enquire into the disappearance of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

Recommendation of the Shah Nawaz Committee is contained in the Chapter VII of the report at F/A (P. 61). Findings of the Khosla Commission can be seen at F/B (P. 123, Chapter IX of the report).

As far as question of ashes of Netaji is concerned, both reports accept the fact that the ashes contained in the urn placed at Renkoji Temple, Tokyo are that of Netaji Bose.

Pranesh CH

The relevant file.

Dir(EA) The file Action already taken. 14.XI.77
The file was left with SS (EA) US (PE)
I have kept the copies of the reports of Khosla Commission and Shah Nawaz Committee. 11/12

POST-EP/11/12

D. 1718-115 (FF) 12/12

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19/12
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11/12
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Lok Sabha Unstarred Qn. 6254 for

4-8-77 (1)

✓ DNo. 5543/840/77
248

15

**Airerash involving Netaji Subhas
Chandra Bose**

6254. SHRI SAMAR GUHA:

Will the Minister of **EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS**

विदेश मंत्री

be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mountbatten Diary contained many vital information about Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, particularly regarding alleged air-crash;

(b) if so, whether only a few pages from the Mountbatten Diary were produced before the Shah Nawaz Inquiry Committee and Khosla Commission;

(c) if so, revelation of mystery surrounding disappearance of Netaji, whether Government propose to request Lord Mountbatten as well as the Government of U.K. for sending a full copy of Mountbatten's Diary to the Government of India; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed or taken thereabout?

EA
us (FE)

DN-1233-Pat-77

JSC(VERA)

(9)

30-7-77

MOST IMMEDIATE

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
(Question Branch)

158-78/11603
392

SUBJECT : Starred Question D. No. 9771 and 9772 by Shri Samar Guha, M.P.
regarding inquiry about disappearance of Netaji and
aircrash involving Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

DN-5544/ER/77
28

Will the Ministry of Home Affairs (S&P)
please refer to their XXXXXU.O.No.I/13012/77/77-D.III dated the 28th
July, 19 77 accepting the transfer of the above noted question from Ministry
of External Affairs.

2. Since the letter of acceptance referred to above has been received after the list for
the 3rd August, 1977, ~~1970~~ has been finally printed and circulated to Members and
Ministries, it is not possible to this stage to effect the transfer of the question for answer by
Minister of Home Affairs on a day allotted to him as desired
by that Ministry. The question will stand in the name of the Minister of ~~XXXXXX~~

External Affairs for answer on the 4th August, 19 77

3. The Ministry of External may collect necessary
~~Home Affairs~~ information from the Ministry of Home Affairs
and give a suitable reply. They may, however, seek the presence of the Minister of
~~XXXXXX~~ if they so desire, when the question comes up
for answer in the House.

S. ~~XXXXXX~~ Khame.

~~XXXXXX~~ UNDER SECRETARY

SENIOR EXAMINER OF QUESTIONS.

Ministry of Home Affairs
Ministry of External Affairs

L.S.S.U.O. No. 30/9771/4.8/77-Q dated the 29th July, 1977.

LSS/Q.1/35

9
30.7
DS(ER)

(3)

BRIEF

Subject:- Motion by Shri Samar Guha regarding Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the disappearance of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

A similar Motion was moved by Shri Samar Guha and others on 7.11.74. The Motion was discussed in the Lok Sabha on the 20th December, 1974.

2. In April, 1956, the Government of India, in response to public demand, appointed an Inquiry Committee consisting of Sarvashri Shah Nawaz Khan, Suresh Chandra Bose (elder brother of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose) and S.N. Maitra, formerly Chief Commissioner of Andaman and Nicobar, to ascertain the circumstances concerning Netaji's alleged death in an air-crash. Two members of the Committee, namely, Sarvashri Shah Nawaz Khan and S.N. Maitra, came to the conclusion that Netaji met his death in an air-crash at Taihoku (Formosa) on the 13th August, 1945. Shri Suresh Chandra Bose disagreed with these findings and submitted a dissentient report. The majority report was accepted by the Government.

3. The controversy over the disappearance of Netaji was, however, not resolved and demands continued to be made for undertaking another inquiry into the matter. Rumours about Netaji's survival and his subsequent appearance elsewhere cropped up repeatedly. In response to a demand for a fresh inquiry by a number of Members of Parliament belonging to different political parties the Government decided to appoint a Commission of Inquiry to go into the entire matter in July, 1970. Shri G.D. Khosla, retired Chief Justice of Punjab High Court, was appointed as a one man Commission to "inquire into all the facts and circumstances relating to the disappearance of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in 1945 and

the subsequent developments connected therewith and make its report to the Central Government". A copy of Notification No. 25/14/70-Poll.II dated the 11th July, 1970 is placed at Annexure I. The Commission visited Japan, Burma, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, South Vietnam and Formosa (Taiwan) and on the whole examined 224 witnesses including 100 who were examined abroad. A large number of files and documents were produced and cited in evidence. The Commission submitted its report on the 30th June, 1974.

4. The Commission has arrived at the same conclusion that was reached by the Shah Nawaz Khan Committee in 1956 that Netaji died in an air-crash at Taihoku on the 18th August, 1945. The Commission has submitted its findings in Chapter IX of the report.

5. The Cabinet considered the report of the Commission on the 29th August, 1974. A copy of the note placed before the Cabinet is at Annexure II. The Cabinet accepted the findings that Netaji had died in an air-crash on the 18th August, 1945 at Taihoku in Taiwan. The report of the Commission alongwith the memorandum of action taken thereon was laid on the Tables of both the Houses of Parliament on 3rd September, 1974. A copy of the Memorandum of Action taken presented in the House is at Annexure III.

6. A number of controversies have been raised in various forms regarding the Khosla Commission Report. Some of the important controversies have been dealt with in Annexure IV.

7. The death of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose has been discussed off and on for the last 32 years. One Committee and one Commission appointed by Government

have come to the identical conclusion that Netaji died in a plane crash on the 13th August, 1945 at Taihoku in Taiwan. Under these circumstances, any more to re-open the issue now will have to be firmly resisted.

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ANNEXURE I

NO. 25/14/70-Poll.II

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
New Delhi, the 11th July, 1970

NOTIFICATION

S.O. 2375.-WHEREAS the Shah Nawaz Khan Committee appointed by the Government of India in April, 1956, to inquire into and to report to the Government of India on the circumstances concerning the departure of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose from Bangkok about the 16th August, 1945, his reported death as a result of an aircraft accident, and subsequent developments connected therewith, had come to the conclusion that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose met his death in an air crash;

AND WHEREAS there is a widespread feeling amongst the public that the problem of finding the truth about Netaji's death still remains;

AND WHEREAS there has been a persistent demand for a further inquiry into the matter;

AND WHEREAS THE Central Government is of opinion that it is necessary to appoint a Commission of Inquiry for the purpose of making an inquiry into a definite matter of public importance, namely, the disappearance of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in 1945;

NOW, THEREFORE, in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 3 of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952 (60 of 1952), the Central Government hereby appoints a Commission of Inquiry consisting of Shri G.D. Khosla, Retired Chief Justice of the Punjab High Court, as sole member.

2. The Commission shall inquire into all the facts and circumstances relating to the disappearance of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in 1945 and the subsequent developments connected therewith and make its report to the Central Government. The Commission will be expected to complete its inquiry and make its report by the 31st December, 1970.

3. The Central Government is of opinion that having regard to the nature of the inquiry to be made and other circumstances of the case, all the provisions of sub-section (2), sub-section (3), sub-section (4) and

sub-section (5) of Section 5 of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952 (60 of 1952) should be made applicable to the said Commission and the Central Government hereby directs under sub-section (1) of the said section 5 that all the provisions aforesaid shall apply to the said Commission.

T.C.A. SRINIVASAVARDAN,
Joint Secretary

ANNEXURE II

MEMORANDUM OF ACTION TAKEN ON THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY REGARDING THE FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES RELATING TO THE DISAPPEARANCE OF NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE.

By Government of India Notification No. 25/14/70-Poll. II dated 11th July, 1970 Shri G.D. Khosla, retired Chief Justice of the Punjab High Court, was appointed under the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952 to inquire into the facts and circumstances relating to the disappearance of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in 1945 and the subsequent developments connected therewith.

2. The Commission completed the inquiry and submitted its report on June 30, 1974.

3. The Government have examined the report and have decided to accept the findings of the Commission that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose died in an air-crash on the 18th August, 1945 at Taihoku airfield in Taiwan.

4. This Report is placed before the House as required under sub-section (4) of Section 3 of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952.

ANNEURE III

~~SECRET~~

Copy No. _____

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NOTE FOR THE CABINET

Subject: The report of the one-man Commission of Inquiry into the disappearance of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

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In April 1956, the Government of India, in response to public demand, appointed an Inquiry Committee consisting of Sarvashri Shah Nawaz Khan, Suresh Chandra Bose (elder brother of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose) and S.N. Maitra, formerly Chief Commissioner of Andaman and Nicobar, to ascertain the circumstances concerning Netaji's alleged death in an air-crash. Two members of the Committee, namely, Sarvashri Shah Nawaz Khan and S.N. Maitra, came to the conclusion that Netaji met his death in an aircrash at Taihoku (Formosa) on the 18th August, 1945. Shri Suresh Chandra Bose disagreed with these findings and submitted a dissentient report. The majority report was accepted by the Government. The controversy over the disappearance of Netaji was, however, not resolved and demands continued to be made for undertaking another inquiry into the matter. Rumours about Netaji's survival and his subsequent appearance elsewhere cropped up repeatedly. In response to a demand for a fresh inquiry by a number of Members of Parliament belonging to different political parties the Government decided to appoint a Commission of Inquiry to go into the entire matter in July 1970, Shri G.D. Khosla, retired Chief Justice of Punjab High Court, was appointed as a one man Commission to "inquire into all the facts and circumstances relating to the disappearance of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in 1945 and the subsequent developments connected therewith and make its report to the Central Government". A copy of notification No. 25/14/70-Poll.II dated the 11th July, 1970 is placed at Annexure I. The Commission visited Japan, Burma, Thailand, Singapore, Malayasia, South Vietnam and Formosa (Taiwan) and on the whole examined 224 witnesses including 100 who were examined abroad. A large number of files and documents were produced and cited in evidence. The Commission submitted its report on the 30th June, 1974

2. The main conclusions reached by the Commission in its inquiry are, in brief, as follows:

3. On the morning of 16.8.1945, Netaji left Singapore accompanied by a few colleagues and others and arrived at Bangkok at 3.30 P.M. and spent the night there.

PTO

At about 8.00 A.M. on 17.8.1945, Netaji and party left by two planes and reached Saigon at 11.00 A.M. The Commission examined, among others, 8 witnesses who accompanied Netaji in his journey up to Saigon. These included (1) Hachia who was deputed by the Japanese Government to assist Netaji as Minister of the provisional Government of free India. He remained with Netaji till August 17, 1945, (2) Nigeshi, another official of the Japanese Government who delivered the letter containing the terms of surrender to Netaji at Saramban, accompanied him to Singapore and remained with him till the morning of August 17, 1945, and (3) Gen. Isoda, who was the Chief of the Hikari Kikan, liaison agency of the Japanese Government with the Azad Hind Government. He joined Netaji at Singapore and went with him up to Saigon. The others were Sarvashri S.A. Iyer, Gulzara Singh and Abid Hasan who were members in Netaji's provisional Government besides Debnath Das and Col. Pritam Singh who were close confidants of Netaji. There were some difficulties in making transport arrangements for Netaji and his party beyond Saigon. Only two seats were finally offered to him in a Japanese bomber which had come from Manila and was going to Dairen in Manchuria. After some discussion, Netaji decided to avail himself of the two seats and left Saigon by the bomber plane at approximately 5.00 P.M. on 17.8.1945, along with his associate Habibur Rehman. The plane arrived at Tourain at 7.45 P.M. and the party spent the night there. Next day, the bomber left Tourain and arrived at Taipei in Formosa at 2.00 P.M. At Taipei, the pilot attended to a snag in one of the engines which he declared had been corrected after a short while. The passengers accordingly emplaned and the pilot took off at 2.35 P.M. Within a few seconds, one of the engines flew out and the plane crashed near the fringe of the Taihoku airfield. The body of the plane broke into two parts and caught fire. Netaji had sustained burn injuries of the third degree in the aircrash. He was rushed, along with other injured persons, to the Military Hospital where, despite the efforts of the doctors to revive him, he succumbed to the injuries the same night. The Commission examined, among others, 4 witnesses who claimed to have travelled in the ill-fated bomber plane with Netaji on 18.8.1945, including the navigator of the plane. The testimony of these 4 eye-witnesses was corroborated by 11 other witnesses before the Commission. Among the corroborating witnesses was Dr. Yashimi who was acting as the Chief of the Branch Hospital at the Taihoku Army Hospital, who claimed to have been present when Netaji died and to have signed his death certificate. The Commission has concluded that the numerous stories about the meetings of other persons with Netaji at various places and times after 1945 are completely false and unacceptable.

4. The Commission has thus arrived at the same conclusion that was reached by the Shah Nawaz Khan Committee in 1956 that Netaji died in an air-crash at Taihoku on the 18th August, 1945. The Commission has summarised its findings in Chapter IX of the report.

5. In paras 3.19 to 3.21 in Chapter III, the Commission has referred to two factors among the several causes that contributed to delay in the completion of inquiry. One relates to the delay in the appointment of a Government counsel to conduct the proceedings and render legal assistance to the Commission. The connected facts briefly are that the request for the appointment of a counsel to assist the Commission was received in October, 1970. The appointment of Shri Gopi Nath Dikshit was first considered and finalised and then it transpired that he had appeared before the Shah Nawaz Khan Committee also. Some other names were then considered but could not be finalised because one counsel was not willing to accompany the Commission to Japan and another counsel declined to accept the appointment after the appointment order was issued. Finally, the Ministry of Law suggested the name of Shri T.R. Bhasin and he was appointed with effect from the 28th March, 1972.

6. The second factor mentioned by the Commission relates to the delay in arrangements for its visit to Taiwan. There was some delay in processing this matter because it involved the question of an official committee visiting a country with which we did not have any diplomatic relations.

7. Besides the points noted above, there are no other aspects of the report which call for any clarification from the Government's side. There is also no aspect of the report calling for follow up action by the Government. The findings of the Commission may be accepted.

8. Soon after the Commission submitted its report to the Government, repeated demands have been made in the Parliament by Shri Samar Guha, M.P., and some others that the report should be laid on the table of the House immediately. Cabinet's approval is sought for laying the report on the table of the House during the current session itself with the following report about the action taken by Government.

"Government have examined the report submitted by the Commission of Inquiry appointed in July, 1970 to enquire into all the facts and circumstances relating to the disappearance

of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in 1945 and the subsequent developments connected therewith. The Government have decided to accept the findings of the Commission that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose died in an aircrash on the 18th August, 1945 at TAIHOKU airfield in TAIWAN.

9. Home Minister has seen and approved this note.

N.K. Mukarji

(N.K. MUKARJI)
HOME SECRETARY

✓ F. No. 31/2/74-Poll(D-III)
New Delhi-110001
Dated: August 27, 1974.

Cabinet Secretariat

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ANNEXURE IV

CONTROVERSIES RAISED REGARDING
KHOSLA COMMISSION'S REPORT.

1. Prof. Samar Guha had, after the publication of the report, make derogatory remarks about Mr. Justice G.D. Khosla and called him a "puppet judge" who gave a "dictated report". It will be worthwhile to recall that Chief Justice of India had sent a panel of four names for appointment as the Commission of Inquiry at our request. He had also indicated that the choice should be between Shri B.K. Bhattacharya, a retired Judge of the Calcutta High Court and Mr. Justice G.D. Khosla, a retired Chief Justice of the Punjab High Court who had headed several commissions. Justice G.D. Khosla was thereafter appointed as the Commission of Inquiry under the orders of the then Home Minister.
2. A general criticism has been made and may well be repeated in the House that the government did not cooperate with the Commission and did not supply the documents etc., requested for. In meeting this criticism, it may be useful to refer to the findings of the Commission itself on the point that "there is no evidence of any attempt by the present government to withhold evidence or place impediments in the way of this Commission. All documents called for have been supplied and the delay occasioned in making some files and documents available cannot be construed as placing obstacles in the progress of the inquiry. Such delays are a normal feature of government red-tape and pre-occupation with more urgent matters".
3. Prof. Samar Guha has stated, after the release of the report, that the Commission after having claimed

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that for the purpose of the present inquiry, the Shah Nawaz Khan Committee was non est, later on allowed itself to be influenced by the same and endorsed its findings. The fact is that the Commission regarded the report of the Shah Nawaz Khan Committee as inadmissible in evidence and that this being a de novo inquiry, the findings in the previous inquiry were neither binding on the Commission nor relevant as a piece of evidence. It is another matter that Shah Nawaz Khan himself was examined as a witness by the Commission. The Commission came to its conclusions by its independent inquiry unaided and uninfluenced by the earlier findings of the Shah Nawaz Khan Committee, even though the findings happen to be substantially the same.

4. A reference may be made in the House about the dissentient report submitted in 1956 by Shri Suresh Chandra Bose, elder brother of Netaji, who was a member of the Shah Nawaz Khan Committee. Shri Suresh Chandra Bose, in his dissentient report did not agree with the findings of the majority report and claimed that he was firmly of the opinion that the air-crash had not taken place and that Netaji did not die. Shri Suresh Bose appeared as a witness before the Commission. The Commission has discussed at length his dissentient report as also his testimony. In the course of his evidence, Shri Suresh Bose stated that he was offered a reward, which could be the Governorship of Bengal to coax him to sign the majority report of the Shah Nawaz Khan Committee. The Commission has noted that there was no mention of the said offer of reward in Suresh Bose's dissentient report. It also notes that Suresh Bose had signed the document regarding the principal points that had emerged after the inquiry

alongwith two other members of the Khan Committee and the three members had agreed to the finding that Netaji's plane had crashed and he died a few hours later. The Commission has called the story of the alleged offer of governorship to Shri Suresh Chandra Bose as completely false and an after thought which was invented by him to give a semblance of justification for his strange volte face after expressing his concurrence with the findings and conclusions of the earlier committee.

5. Another point that may be urged is that Netaji has been prevented from coming to India as he figures in the list of war criminals and that the Commission had not fully gone into the matter. The point has been made by Prof. Samar Guha and others even after the publication of the report and very recently we received notice of a Parliament Question on the above lines. The Commission examined the question in paragraphs 5.25 to 5.36 of the report. From the evidence and amterial available, the Commission concluded that Netaji's name was never borne in any list of war criminals, that there has been no international agreement or subsequent charter which would bring Netaji (were he alive today) within the mischief of any war crimes tribunal, that the Govt. of India had given no undertaking to any international body to hand Netaji over to it, nor has there been any bar on his movement or entry into India. Earlier, in reply to a Starred Question No. 1939 in the year 1956, we had informed Parliament that there was no question of Netaji being on the list of war criminals. Later, in reply to Starred Question

No. 194 on 22nd August, 1963, the Government again stated that to the best of our knowledge the name of Netaji does not appear in any such list and that the U.K. High Commission in Delhi had issued a statement in 1961 to the effect that his name does not appear and has never appeared in such a list.

6. It may be argued that the evidence of the Commission was vitiated by the non-production of Shri Habibur Rahman who was the only compatriot of Netaji to travel with him in the last lap of his journey and who survived the plane crash. Shri Rahman had earlier appeared before the Shah Nawaz Khan Committee and testified about the veracity of the air-crash story. He now lives in Pakistan. We had sent, through our High Commission in Pakistan, a request for his appearance and received a reply that as he had nothing to add to his earlier testimony, he was unwilling to appear before the Commission. The Commission, therefore, had to do without his evidence and on the basis of other materials and evidence, formed its conclusions. The absence of Shri Habibur Rahman's evidence, as the Commission has observed, however cannot certainly adversely affect any of the remaining evidence.

7. References have often been made in the past that the war time British Government of India did not themselves believe the air-crash story and they had their own independent inquiries made which can throw light in the matter. The Commission has discussed these inquiries in paras 5.38 to 5.58 of the report. The first such inquiry was conducted by a team of policemen sent from India to South East Asia, under the Superintendent of Police, Mr. Finney to make

an on-the-spot inquiry about Netaji. The Commission have examined Shri Dey who was a member of this team and also a copy of the report and found that the substance of the report was that Netaji died in the air-crash. Another independent inquiry was held by the Counter Intelligence Corps General Headquarters United States Armed Force by Lt. Col. Figgess. Figgess did not appear as a witness before the Commission. There is nothing in the report, however, to contradict or rebut the story of the air-crash at Taihoku. A third inquiry was carried out by the Combined Services Detailed Intelligence Centre (CSDIC). The Commission examined this report as well which had concluded that convincing details had been given that Netaji met his death and was cremated in Taihoku in the presence of several witnesses.

8. A question may be asked in the House about the ashes of Netaji. The Shah Nawaz Khan Committee had come to the conclusion that the ashes of Netaji had been brought to Renkoji temple in Tokyo after his body was cremated following the air-crash. They recommended that the ashes be brought to India with due honour and a memorial erected over them at a suitable place. The matter was thereafter considered by the Central Government and it was felt that in deciding this question regard will have to be paid to the feelings of the members of Netaji's family in this matter, that it would be most unfortunate if a controversy arose over what should be a sacred ceremony and that if there is such a risk of controversy it would be best to leave the question of bringing over the

(17)

ashes to India for future consideration. The present Commission have also been "convinced beyond all reasonable doubts that the wooden casket lodged in the Renkoji temple at Tokyo contains Netaji's ashes and these ashes were placed in the box at Taipai after the cremation of his dead body". The arguments in favour of a national consensus to emerge in support of bringing Netaji's ashes to India in a sacred ceremony however would appear to still hold good.

BRIEF

Subject:- Motion by Shri Samar Guha regarding
Report of the Commission of Inquiry
into the disappearance of Netaji
Subhas Chandra Bose.

A similar Motion was moved by Shri Samar Guha and others on 7.11.74. The Motion was discussed in the Lok Sabha on the 20th December, 1974.

2. In April, 1956, the Government of India, in response to public demand, appointed an Inquiry Committee consisting of Sarvashri Shah Nawaz Khan, Suresh Chandra Bose (elder brother of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose) and S.N. Maitra, formerly Chief Commissioner of Andaman and Nicobar, to ascertain the circumstances concerning Netaji's alleged death in an air-crash. Two members of the Committee, namely, Sarvashri Shah Nawaz Khan and S.N. Maitra, came to the conclusion that Netaji met his death in an air-crash at Taihoku (Formosa) on the 13th August, 1945.

Shri Suresh Chandra Bose disagreed with these findings and submitted a dissentient report. The majority report was accepted by the Government.

3. The controversy over the disappearance of Netaji was, however, not resolved and demands continued to be made for undertaking another inquiry into the matter. Rumours about Netaji's survival and his subsequent appearance elsewhere cropped up repeatedly. In response to a demand for a fresh inquiry by a number of Members of Parliament belonging to different political parties the Government decided to appoint a Commission of Inquiry to go into the entire matter in July, 1970. Shri G.D. Khsola, retired Chief Justice of Punjab High Court, was appointed as a one man Commission to "inquire into all the facts and circumstances relating to the disappearance of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in 1945 and

the subsequent developments connected therewith and make its report to the Central Government". A copy of Notification No. 25/14/70-Poll.II dated the 11th July, 1970 is placed at Annexure I. The Commission visited Japan, Burma, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, South Vietnam and Formosa (Taiwan) and on the whole examined 224 witnesses including 100 who were examined abroad. A large number of files and documents were produced and cited in evidence. The Commission submitted its report on the 30th June, 1974.

4. The Commission has arrived at the same conclusion that was reached by the Shah Nawaz Khan Committee in 1956 that Netaji died in an air-crash at Taihoku on the 13th August, 1945. The Commission has submitted its findings in Chapter IX of the report.

5. The Cabinet considered the report of the Commission on the 29th August, 1974. A copy of the note placed before the Cabinet is at Annexure II. The Cabinet accepted the findings that Netaji had died in an air-crash on the 13th August, 1945 at Taihoku in Taiwan. The report of the Commission alongwith the memorandum of action taken thereon was laid on the Tables of both the Houses of Parliament on 3rd September, 1974. A copy of the Memorandum of Action taken presented in the House is at Annexure III.

6. A number of controversies have been raised in various forms regarding the Khosla Commission Report. Some of the important controversies have been dealt with in Annexure IV.

7. The death of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose has been discussed off and on for the last 32 years. One Committee and one Commission appointed by Government

have come to the identical conclusion that Netaji died in a plane crash on the 13th August, 1945 at Taihoku in Taiwan. Under these circumstances, any more to re-open the issue now will have to be firmly resisted.

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(2)

ANNEXURE I

NO. 25/14/70-Poll.II

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
New Delhi, the 11th July, 1970

NOTIFICATION

S.O. 2375.-WHEREAS the Shah Nawaz Khan Committee appointed by the Government of India in April, 1956, to inquire into and to report to the Government of India on the circumstances concerning the departure of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose from Bangkok about the 16th August, 1945, his reported death as a result of an aircraft accident, and subsequent developments connected therewith, had come to the conclusion that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose met his death in an air crash;

AND WHEREAS there is a widespread feeling amongst the public that the problem of finding the truth about Netaji's death still remains;

AND WHEREAS there has been a persistent demand for a further inquiry into the matter;

AND WHEREAS THE Central Government is of opinion that it is necessary to appoint a Commission of Inquiry for the purpose of making an inquiry into a definite matter of public importance, namely, the disappearance of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in 1945;

NOW, THEREFORE, in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 3 of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952 (60 of 1952), the Central Government hereby appoints a Commission of Inquiry consisting of Shri G.D. Khosla, Retired Chief Justice of the Punjab High Court, as sole member.

2. The Commission shall inquire into all the facts and circumstances relating to the disappearance of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in 1945 and the subsequent developments connected therewith and make its report to the Central Government. The Commission will be expected to complete its inquiry and make its report by the 31st December, 1970.

3. The Central Government is of opinion that having regard to the nature of the inquiry to be made and other circumstances of the case, all the provisions of sub-section (2), sub-section (3), sub-section (4) and

sub-section (5) of Section 5 of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952 (60 of 1952) should be made applicable to the said Commission and the Central Government hereby directs under sub-section (1) of the said section 5 that all the provisions aforesaid shall apply to the said Commission.

T.C.A. SRINIVASAVARDAN,
Joint Secretary

Annexure

(22)

MEMORANDUM OF ACTION TAKEN ON THE REPORT OF THE
COMMISSION OF INQUIRY REGARDING THE FACTS AND
CIRCUMSTANCES RELATING TO THE DISAPPEARANCE OF
NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE.

By Government of India Notification No. 25/74/70-Poll.II dated 11th July, 1970 Shri G.D. Khosla, retired Chief Justice of the Punjab High Court, was appointed under the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952 to inquire into the facts and circumstances relating to the disappearance of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in 1945 and the subsequent developments connected therewith.

2. The Commission completed the inquiry and submitted its report on June 30, 1974.

3. The Government have examined the report and have decided to accept the findings of the Commission that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose died in an air-crash on the 18th August, 1945 at Taihoku airfield in Taiwan.

4. This Report is placed before the House as required under sub-section (4) of Section 3 of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952.

SECRET

Copy No. _____

NOTE FOR THE CAS FILE

Subject: The report of the one-man Commission of Inquiry into the disappearance of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

...

In April 1956, the Government of India, in response to public demand, appointed an Inquiry Committee consisting of Sarvashri Shah Nawaz Khan, Suresh Chandra Bose (elder brother of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose) and S.N. Maitra, formerly Chief Commissioner of Andaman and Nicobar, to ascertain the circumstances concerning Netaji's alleged death in an air-crash. Two members of the Committee, namely, Sarvashri Shah Nawaz Khan and S.N. Maitra, came to the conclusion that Netaji met his death in an air-crash at Taiboku (Formosa) on the 18th August, 1945. Shri Suresh Chandra Bose disagreed with these findings and submitted a dissentient report. The majority report was accepted by the Government. The controversy over the disappearance of Netaji was, however, not resolved and demands continued to be made for undertaking another inquiry into the matter. Rumours about Netaji's survival and his subsequent appearance elsewhere cropped up repeatedly. In response to a demand for a fresh inquiry by a number of Members of Parliament belonging to different political parties the Government decided to appoint a Commission of Inquiry to go into the entire matter in July 1970, Shri G.D. Khosla, retired Chief Justice of Punjab High Court, was appointed as a one man Commission to "inquire into all the facts and circumstances relating to the disappearance of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in 1945 and the subsequent developments connected therewith and make its report to the Central Government". A copy of notification No. 25/14/70-Poll.II dated the 11th July, 1970 is placed at Annexure I. The Commission visited Japan, Burma, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, South Vietnam and Formosa (Taiwan) and on the whole examined 224 witnesses including 100 who were examined abroad. A large number of files and documents were produced and cited in evidence. The Commission submitted its report on the 30th June, 1974.

2. The main conclusions reached by the Commission in its inquiry are, in brief, as follows:

3. On the morning of 16.8.1945, Netaji left Singapore accompanied by a few colleagues and others and arrived at Bangkok at 3.30 P.M. and spent the night there.

PTO

At about 8.00 A.M. on 17.8.1945, Netaji and party left by two planes and reached Saigon at 11.00 A.M. The Commission examined, among others, 8 witnesses who accompanied Netaji in his journey up to Saigon. These included (1) Hachia who was deputed by the Japanese Government to assist Netaji as Minister of the provisional Government of free India. He remained with Netaji till August 17, 1945, (2) Nigeshi, another official of the Japanese Government who delivered the letter containing the terms of surrender to Netaji at Saramban, accompanied him to Singapore and remained with him till the morning of August 17, 1945, and (3) Gen. Isoda, who was the Chief of the Hikari Kikan, liaison agency of the Japanese Government with the Azad Hind Government. He joined Netaji at Singapore and went with him up to Saigon. The others were Sarveshri S.A. Iyer, Gulzara Singh and Abid Hasan who were members in Netaji's provisional Government besides Lebnath Das and Col. Pritam Singh who were close confidants of Netaji. There were some difficulties in making transport arrangements for Netaji and his party beyond Saigon. Only two seats were finally offered to him in a Japanese bomber which had come from Manila and was going to Dairen in Manchuria. After some discussion, Netaji decided to avail himself of the two seats and left Saigon by the bomber plane at approximately 5.00 P.M. on 17.8.1945, along with his associate Habibur Rehman. The plane arrived at Tourain at 7.45 P.M. and the party spent the night there. Next day, the bomber left Tourain and arrived at Taipei in Formosa at 2.00 P.M. At Taipei, the pilot attended to a snag in one of the engines which he declared had been corrected after a short while. The passengers accordingly disembarked and the pilot took off at 2.35 P.M. Within a few seconds, one of the engines flew out and the plane crashed near the fringe of the Taihoku airfield. The body of the plane broke into two parts and caught fire. Netaji had sustained burn injuries of the third degree in the aircrash. He was rushed, along with other injured persons, to the Military Hospital where, despite the efforts of the doctors to revive him, he succumbed to the injuries the same night. The Commission examined, among others, 4 witnesses who claimed to have travelled in the ill-fated bomber plane with Netaji on 18.8.1945, including the navigator of the plane. The testimony of these 4 eye-witnesses was corroborated by 11 other witnesses before the Commission. Among the corroborating witnesses was Dr. Yashimi who was acting as the Chief of the Branch Hospital at the Taihoku Army Hospital, who claimed to have been present when Netaji died and to have signed his death certificate. The Commission has concluded that the numerous stories about the meetings of other persons with Netaji at various places and times after 1945 are completely false and unacceptable.

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4. The Commission has thus arrived at the same conclusion that was reached by the Shah Nawaz Khan Committee in 1956 that Netaji died in an air-crash at Taihoku on the 18th August, 1945. The Commission has summarised its findings in Chapter IX of the report.

5. In paras 3.19 to 3.21 in Chapter III, the Commission has referred to two factors among the several causes that contributed to delay in the completion of inquiry. One relates to the delay in the appointment of a Government counsel to conduct the proceedings and render legal assistance to the Commission. The connected facts briefly are that the request for the appointment of a counsel to assist the Commission was received in October, 1970. The appointment of Shri Gopi Nath Dikshit was first considered and finalised and then it transpired that he had appeared before the Shah Nawaz Khan Committee also. Some other names were then considered but could not be finalised because one counsel was not willing to accompany the Commission to Japan and another counsel declined to accept the appointment after the appointment order was issued. Finally, the Ministry of Law suggested the name of Shri T.R. Bhasin and he was appointed with effect from the 28th March, 1972.

6. The second factor mentioned by the Commission relates to the delay in arrangements for its visit to Taiwan. There was some delay in processing this matter because it involved the question of an official committee visiting a country with which we did not have any diplomatic relations.

7. Besides the points noted above, there are no other aspects of the report which call for any clarification from the Government's side. There is also no aspect of the report calling for follow up action by the Government. The findings of the Commission may be accepted.

8. Soon after the Commission submitted its report to the Government, repeated demands have been made in the Parliament by Shri Samar Guha, M.P., and some others that the report should be laid on the table of the House immediately. Cabinet's approval is sought for laying the report on the table of the House during the current session itself with the following report about the action taken by Government.

"Government have examined the report submitted by the Commission of Inquiry appointed in July, 1970 to enquire into all the facts and circumstances relating to the disappearance

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- 4 -

of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in 1945 and the subsequent developments connected therewith. The Government have decided to accept the findings of the Commission that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose died in an air crash on the 18th August, 1945 at TAIHOKU airfield in TAIWAN!

9. Home Minister has seen and approved this note.

M. K. Mukarji

(M.K. MUKARJI)
HOME SECRETARY

✓ F. No. 31/2/74-Poll(D-III)
New Delhi-110001
Dated: August 27, 1974.

Cabinet Secretariat

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ANNEXURE IV

CONTROVERSIES RAISED REGARDING
KHOSLA COMMISSION'S REPORT.

1. Prof. Samar Guha had, after the publication of the report, make derogatory remarks about Mr. Justice G.D. Khosla and called him a "pupped judge" who gave a "dictated report". It will be worthwhile to recall that Chief Justice of India had sent a panel of four names for appointment as the Commission of Inquiry at our request. He had also indicated that the choice should be between Shri B.K. Bhattacharya, a retired Judge of the Calcutta High Court and Mr. Justice G.D. Khosla, a retired Chief Justice of the Punjab High Court who had headed several commissions. Justice G.D. Khosla was thereafter appointed as the Commission of Inquiry under the orders of the then Home Minister.
2. A general criticism has been made and may well be repeated in the House that the government did not cooperate with the Commission and did not supply the documents etc., requested for. In meeting this criticism, it may be useful to refer to the findings of the Commission itself on the point that "there is no evidence of any attempt by the present government to withhold evidence or place impediments in the way of this Commission. All documents called for have been supplied and the delay occasioned in making some files and documents available cannot be construed as placing obstacles in the progress of the inquiry. Such delays are a normal feature of government red-tape and pre-occupation with more urgent matters".
3. Prof. Samar Guha has stated, after the release of the report, that the Commission after having claimed

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that for the purpose of the present inquiry, the Shah Nawaz Khan Committee was non est, later on allowed itself to be influenced by the same and endorsed its findings. The fact is that the Commission regarded the report of the Shah Nawaz Khan Committee as inadmissible in evidence and that this being a de novo inquiry, the findings in the previous inquiry were neither binding on the Commission nor relevant as a piece of evidence. It is another matter that Shah Nawaz Khan himself was examined as a witness by the Commission. The Commission came to its conclusions by its independent inquiry unaided and uninfluenced by the earlier findings of the Shah Nawaz Khan Committee, even though the findings happen to be substantially the same.

4. A reference may be made in the House about the dissentient report submitted in 1956 by Shri Suresh Chandra Bose, elder brother of Netaji, who was a member of the Shah Nawaz Khan Committee. Shri Suresh Chandra Bose, in his dissentient report did not agree with the findings of the majority report and claimed that he was firmly of the opinion that the air-crash had not taken place and that Netaji did not die. Shri Suresh Bose appeared as a witness before the Commission. The Commission has discussed at length his dissentient report as also his testimony. In the course of his evidence, Shri Suresh Bose stated that he was offered a reward, which could be the Governorship of Bengal to coax him to sign the majority report of the Shah Nawaz Khan Committee. The Commission has noted that there was no mention of the said offer of reward in Suresh Bose's dissentient report. It also notes that Suresh Bose had signed the document regarding the principal points that had emerged after the inquiry

alongwith two other members of the Khan Committee and the three members had agreed to the finding that Netaji's plane had crashed and he died a few hours later. The Commission has called the story of the alleged offer of governorship to Shri Suresh Chandra Bose as completely false and an after thought which was invented by him to give a semblance of justification for his strange volte face after expressing his concurrence with the findings and conclusions of the earlier committee.

5. Another point that may be urged is that Netaji has been prevented from coming to India as he figures in the list of war criminals and that the Commission had not fully gone into the matter. The point has been made by Prof. Samar Guha and others even after the publication of the report and very recently we received notice of a Parliament Question on the above lines. The Commission examined the question in paragraphs 5.25 to 5.36 of the report. From the evidence and amterial available, the Commission concluded that Netaji's name was never borne in any list of war criminals, that there has been no international agreement or subsequent charter which would bring Netaji (were he alive today) within the mischief of any war crimes tribunal, that the Govt. of India had given no undertaking to any international body to hand Netaji over to it, nor has there been any bar on his movement or entry into India. Earlier, in reply to a Starred Question No. 1939 in the year 1956, we had informed Parliament that there was no question of Netaji being on the list of war criminals. Later, in reply to Starred Question

No. 194 on 22nd August, 1963, the Government again stated that to the best of our knowledge the name of Netaji does not appear in any such list and that the U.K. High Commission in Delhi had issued a statement in 1961 to the effect that his name does not appear and has never appeared in such a list.

6. It may be argued that the evidence of the Commission was vitiated by the non-production of Shri Habibur Rahman who was the only compatriot of Netaji to travel with him in the last lap of his journey and who survived the plane crash. Shri Rahman had earlier appeared before the Shah Nawaz Khan Committee and testified about the veracity of the air-crash story. He now lives in Pakistan. We had sent, through our High Commission in Pakistan, a request for his appearance and received a reply that as he had nothing to add to his earlier testimony, he was unwilling to appear before the Commission. The Commission, therefore, had to do without his evidence and on the basis of other materials and evidence, formed its conclusions. The absence of Shri Habibur Rahman's evidence, as the Commission has observed, however cannot certainly adversely affect any of the remaining evidence.

7. References have often been made in the past that the war time British Government of India did not themselves believe the air-crash story and they had their own independent inquiries made which can throw light in the matter. The Commission has discussed these inquiries in paras 5.38 to 5.58 of the report. The first such inquiry was conducted by a team of policemen sent from India to South East Asia, under the Superintendent of Police, Mr. Finney to make

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an on-the-spot inquiry about Netaji. The Commission have examined Shri Dey who was a member of this team and also a copy of the report and found that the substance of the report was that Netaji died in the air-crash. Another independent inquiry was held by the Counter Intelligence Corps General Headquarters United States Armed Force by Lt. Col. Figgess. Figgess did not appear as a witness before the Commission. There is nothing in the report, however, to contradict or rebut the story of the air-crash at Taihoku. A third inquiry was carried out by the Combined Services Detailed Intelligence Centre (CSDIC). The Commission examined this report as well which had concluded that convincing details had been given that Netaji met his death and was cremated in Taihoku in the presence of several witnesses.

8. A question may be asked in the House about the ashes of Netaji. The Shah Nawaz Khan Committee had come to the conclusion that the ashes of Netaji had been brought to Renkoji temple in Tokyo after his body was cremated following the air-crash. They recommended that the ashes be brought to India with due honour and a memorial erected over them at a suitable place. The matter was thereafter considered by the Central Government and it was felt that in deciding this question regard will have to be paid to the feelings of the members of Netaji's family in this matter, that it would be most unfortunate if a controversy arose over what should be a sacred ceremony and that if there is such a risk of controversy it would be best to leave the question of bringing over the

ashes to India for future consideration. The present Commission have also been "convinced beyond all reasonable doubts that the wooden casket lodged in the Renkoji temple at Tokyo contains Netaji's ashes and these ashes were placed in the box at Taipai after the cremation of his dead body". The arguments in favour of a national concensus to emerge in support of bringing Netaji's ashes to India in a sacred ceremony however would appear to still hold good.

No. 263/See 011.

27th July, 1977

My dear

We had received an Advance Notice about three Starred Questions regarding enquiry into the aircrash involving Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. In accordance with the decision taken by the Cabinet Secretariat a few years ago we had requested the Ministry of Home Affairs to accept the transfer of these Questions. I have just seen a U.O. note(attached) from the Ministry of Home Affairs in which you have in essence declined to accept the transfer.

2. In 1973-74, we had the same problem relating to a Parliamentary Question concerning the Shah Nawaz Inquiry Committee and the Khosla Commission and as there was a dispute as to which Ministry should handle the Question, a reference was made to the Cabinet Secretariat. It is my understanding that a decision was taken at that time that since all matters and papers concerning Netaji's death and the work of the Inquiry Commission had been transferred to the Ministry of Home Affairs, it would be more appropriate for the Home Ministry to answer Questions specifically related to the Inquiry Committee and the Khosla Commission. As you can see, the present Questions relate specifically to the work of the Inquiry Committee and the Khosla Commission. There might be references in the Questions to the possibility of obtaining documents from foreign sources, but the Home Ministry's note itself clearly states, the Netaji Inquiry Commission has completed its work and the Government has accepted the report and its findings. As far as I am aware, there is no proposal for holding a fresh enquiry into the matter. This answer should, in my view, appropriately be given by the Home Ministry. /as

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3. I shall be grateful if your Ministry would, in the circumstances, accept the transfer of these Questions and inform the Lok Sabha Secretariat accordingly.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(M.A. Vellodi)

Shri T.C.A. Srinivasavardan,
Home Secretary,
Ministry of Home Affairs,
New Delhi

(4) 1618-4251/83 Spl. Messages
3/12
5220-DS(1C)/3
Ministry of External Affairs
(East Asia Division)

Secret
Most Immediate
(38)

Please find forwarded herewith Advance Notices of 3 Questions on raising monuments for Netaji Subash Chandra Bose in foreign countries. These are entered as Starred Questions to be replied on 6th December, 1973, by Shri Samar Guha.

2. The subject matter of the Questions do not concern this Ministry since: (a) all matters and Papers concerning Netaji's death and the setting up an Enquiry Commission have been transferred to the Ministry of Home Affairs who are now dealing with this question; (b) all papers and files concerning Netaji's life, activities abroad and death have been sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs and are in their possession; and (c) questions relating to raising of monuments in India or abroad would also seem to be the responsibility of the M.H.A.

3. It, therefore, appears to us that M.H.A. is the Ministry which is substantively concerned with this question. However, the M.H.A. is not accepting a transfer and, in fact, have suggested that the Questions should be dealt with by WHS Ministry since they are concerned with the question of raising of monuments. When we contacted WHS, they told us that their Ministry was concerned only with the implementation of the decision and it was not for them to take a decision in the matter.

4. It, therefore, appears to us that the basic responsibility for dealing with this question rests with the MHA and they should deal with this.

5. It would, therefore, be appreciated if the Cabinet Secretariat could kindly consider the question and take suitable decision asking the Ministry of H.A. to deal with this matter now and hereafter. They would no doubt do so under intimation to the Lok Sabha Secretariat and us.

6. A copy of the relevant note from the Lok Sabha Sectt., our letters to the Home Ministry and their reply and the Questions are forwarded herewith.

ofc H
(V.V. Paranjpe)
Joint Secretary (EA)
1.12.1973

Shri J.S. Mongia
Joint Secretary to the Cabinet
Cabinet Secretariat
New Delhi

Rm. No. 13, South East Wing, Rashtrapathi Bhavan.

LOK SABHA
4.8.1977

(L)
MOST IMMEDIATE

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(PARLIAMENT SECTION)

.....

New Delhi, the 30th July, 1977.

* Following is the list of finally admitted questions for LOK SABHA on 4.8.1977. The draft answers to all questions in QU. DRUPLICATE after their approval by Joint Secretaries/Directors may please be typed neatly in DOUBLE SPACE and submitted to the Secretaries concerned latest by 1.8.1977(MONDAY) who will be sending them on to the Foreign Minister on the same day through the Parliament Section.

After office hours and on holidays the files may kindly be submitted to the Foreign Minister at his residence.

* LIST OF FINALLY ADMITTED QUESTIONS FOR LOK SABHA ON 4.8.1977 (THURSDAY).

Sl No.	Adv No.	Final No.	Position on the list.	Subject	Section	Head of the Div concerned.
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STARRED QUESTIONS

1.	9561	778	VI	Criteria for selecting Delegations for Cultural teams in Foreign Countries.	COORD	DIR(PARL)
2.	9585	780	VIII	Settlement of Claims of Indians evicted from Uganda.	AFR	DS(AFR)
3.	9586 OIH	781	IX	Strengthening of Relations with Spain and Portugal.	EUR(W)	JS(EW)

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

1.	1307	6091		Expenditure on Foreign Delegates who attended Gauhati Session of Youth Congress.	COORD	DIR(PARL)
2.	8039	6118		Awards for Indians declared by foreign Embassies in India.	EE	JS(EE)
3.	8135	6121		Issue of Passports to Trade Unionists.	PV I	JS(CPV)
4.	9062	6123		India's contribution to U.N. University at Tokyo.	UN II	JS(UN)
5.	9578 OIH	6129		Invitations from African Countries.	AFR	DS(AFR)
6.	10449 OIH	6159		Protest by Pakistan Government about Indian Prime Minister's talks with French leaders on Atomic Race.	PAKAF	JS(PAKAF)

7.	10510	6161	Bangladesh Refugees in U.P.	BD	JS(BD)
8.	1308	6170	Maintenance of Residence of Secretary COORD Indian Council for Cultural Relations.	DIR(PARL)	
9.	1598	6185	Opening of an Office of Regional Passport Officer in Madhya Pradesh.	PV I	JS(CPV)
10.	1789	6190	Service conditions of Indians employed by Foreign Embassies.	PT III	JS(P)
11.	7889 OIH	6194	Foreign tours by Shrimati Indira Gandhi and her family members.	GA	JS(AD)
12.	8638	6204	Employment for Indian skilled labour and technicians in Gulf countries.	WANA (ECO)	DIR(WANA) (ECO)
13.	9112 OIH	6205	Vacation of Government accommodation by Technicians sent abroad.	ED	JS(ED I)
14.	9559	6213	Prohibition of development, production and stock-piling of Biological and Toxin Weapons.	UN IV	DIR(DIS)
15.	9618 OIH	6226	Invitation to workers' representatives in India by Trade Union Congress of Malaysia.	PV I	JS(CPV)
16.	9629	6228	Contribution made by India to Common- wealth Secretariat in London.	EW	JS(EW)
17.	9770	6253	Acquisition of buildings used by Provisional Government of Free India in Singapore.	SA	JS(S)
18.	9771	6254	Air crash involving Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.	EA	JS(N&EA)
19.	9772	6255	Reconstruction of Hindu Religious Institutions destroyed during war in Bangladesh.	BD	JS(BD)
20.	10372	6268	Indian Citizenship for persons Migrated from Bangladesh.	BD	JS(BD)
21.	5389	6287	Delegations sent abroad to Campaign in support of Emergency.	COORD	DIR(PARL)
22.	5412 OIH	6288	Posters in Indian Embassies.	SE	JS(AD)
23.	6665	6289	Hotels being run abroad by sons of the Former Prime Minister.	EUR(W)	JS(EW)

(V.K. Mankotia)

Section Officer(Parl.)

ALL HEADS OF DIVISIONS

1. S.A. to F.M.
2. P.Ss. to Foreign Secretary/Secretary(East)/Secretary(ER)/
Addl. Secy I/Addl. Secy II/Addl. Secy III.
3. Director(Coord)/Under Secretary(Coord).
4. OSD(Hindi)

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7

MOST IMMEDIATE
PARLIAMENT QUESTION
(LOK SABHA)

Ministry of External Affairs
(East Asia Division)

Reference Unstarred Question No.6254 tabled by Shri Samar Guha to be answered on 4.8.1977 . regarding Air crash involving Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

Questions relating to the death of Netaji are handled by the Ministry of Home Affairs since Dec.1973. Prior to that date this Ministry was responsible. When we received Advance Notice of the above Question, we took immediate steps to transfer it to the Ministry of Home Affairs. Unfortunately, there was an initial reluctance on their part to accept the transfer and Secretary (East) in our Ministry had to write to the Home Secretary, with a copy to the Lok Sabha Secretariat. The eventual acceptance by the Ministry of Home Affairs of their responsibility to answer this question, however, reached the Lok Sabha Secretariat only after the final printed list of questions had already been circulated to Members and Ministries. Hence the Lok Sabha Secretariat retained the original allocation to the Ministry of External Affairs.

2. I understood from the Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Shri N.K. Sinha, who deals with this subject, that the Minister of Home Affairs is himself due to make a statement in the Lok Sabha on a No-Day-Yet-Named Motion, which may come up on 3rd August. Questions similar to the ones now asked by Shri Guha may figure in the discussions, which may follow the Minister's statement.

3. As for the questions posed by Shri Samar Guha on whether the two bodies, viz. the Shah Nawaz Committee and the Khosla Commission, consulted papers maintained by Lord Mountbatten, which, according to him, may contain information relating to the air crash in which Netaji lost his life, on our enquiry with our High Commission in London in 1971, we were told that the information said to be in possession of the UK authorities is in the category of War-time Intelligence and as they were still classified at the time, a formal request may have to be made to the UK authorities.

4. In any case, the Khosla Commission which was specially appointed by the Government in 1970, made an exhaustive investigation and its report, which was published in 1974 and also placed before Parliament, came to the conclusion that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose died in an air crash on 18.8.1945 at Taihoku Airport in Taiwan. Since the publication of the Khosla Commission's report, Government's standard reply in Parliament has been that Government has examined the Report and decided to accept the findings of the Report.

5. Accordingly, a draft reply has been prepared which has been informally cleared with the Ministry of Home Affairs. The draft answer is in line with the "Memorandum of Action" taken by the Government after Cabinet approval, which was also placed along with the Khosla Commission's Report on the table of both the Houses of Parliament on 3rd September, 1974.

(C.V. Ranganathan)
Joint Secretary (N&EA)
2.8.1977

Parliament Section, MEA.

Unstarred Question No.

6254

To be answered on:

4.8.1977

Tabled by:

Shri Samar Guha.

Subject: AIR CRASH INVOLVING NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE.

QUESTION

ANSWER

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mountbatten Diary contained many vital information about Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, particularly regarding alleged air-crash;

(b) if so, whether only a few pages from the Mountbatten Diary were produced before the Shah Nawaz Inquiry Committee and Khosla Commission;

(c) if so, revelation of mystery surrounding disappearance of Netaji, whether Government propose to request Lord Mountbatten as well as the UK Government for sending a full copy of Mountbatten's Diary to the Government of India; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed or taken thereabout?

(a),(b),(c) and (d):

Unfortunately the Mountbatten papers were not available to us in view of their being classified documents. However, in accordance with a Government of India Notification dated 11th July, 1970, the Central Government appointed a Commission of Inquiry consisting of the retired Chief Justice of the Punjab High Court, Shri G.D. Khosla, as sole member. This Commission was charged with inquiring into all the facts and circumstances relating to the disappearance of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in 1945 and make its Report to the Central Government. It completed the inquiry and submitted its Report on June 30, 1974. The Government has examined the Report and has decided to accept the findings of the Commission that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose died in air-crash on 18th August, 1945, at Taihoku Airport in Taiwan. The Report was also placed before Parliament.

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D. 1252-45 (FE)/77 1750-DS(EA) 22/77
1/8

PARLIAMENT QUESTION
MOST IMMEDIATE

Ministry of Home Affairs
I.S. Division (D.III)

5517/800/77
2/8

Subject:- Lok Sabha Unstarred Question Nos. 9771, 9772, and 9773 regarding production of documents connected with the disappearance of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

The Lok Sabha Secretariat may kindly refer to this Ministry's U.O. No. I/13012/77/77-D.III (S&P) dated 26.7.77 on the subject noted above. On a reconsideration of the matter, it has been decided that the Questions will be handled by MHA, in case the Questions are admitted.

2. This Ministry has also accepted on transfer from Ministry of External Affairs advance notices bearing Nos. 9771, 9772 and 9773. These advance notices are identical with the notices referred to in para 1 above.

Sd/-

(N. K. SINHA)
Deputy Secretary

Lok Sabha Sectt. (Question Branch)

MHA U.O. No. I/13012/77/77-D.III (S&P) dated -7-77

✓ Copy forwarded for information to the Ministry of External Affairs with reference to Shri M.A. Vellodi's D.O. letter No. 263/Secy.(E)/77 dated 27th July, 1977.

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Mrs. Madhu Khaduri, D.S. (FE) MHA

h. 20/7/77

(N. K. SINHA)
Deputy Secretary

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UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.6254

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.6254

TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH AUGUST, 1977

AIRCRAH INVOLVING NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE

6254. SHRI SAMAR GUHA:

Will the Minister of External Affairs विदेश मंत्री
be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Mountbatten Diary contained many vital information about Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, particularly regarding alleged air crash;
- (b) if so, whether only a few pages from the Mountbatten Diary were produced before the Shah Nawaz Inquiry Committee and Khosla Commission;
- (c) if so, revelation of mystery surrounding disappearance of Netaji, whether Government propose to request Lord Mountbatten as well as the Government of U.K. for sending a full copy of Mountbatten's Diary to the Government of India; and
- (d) if so, the steps proposed or taken thereabout?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS विदेश मंत्री
(SHRI ATAL BIKARI VAJPAYEE)

(a), (b), (c) and (d): Unfortunately the Mountbatten papers were not available to us in view of their being classified documents. However, in accordance with a Government of India Notification dated 11th July, 1970, the Central Government appointed a Commission of Inquiry consisting of the retired Chief Justice of the Punjab High Court, Shri G.D. Khosla, as sole member. This Commission was charged with inquiring

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into all the facts and circumstances relating to the disappearance of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in 1945 and make its Report to the Central Government. It completed the inquiry and submitted its Report on June 30, 1974. The Government has examined the Report and has decided to accept the findings of the Commission that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose died in air-crash on 18th August, 1945, at Taihoku Airport in Taiwan. The Report was also placed before Parliament.

Pravesh Chandra
Under Secretary(FE)


No. C/125/5/77-JP August 6, 1977

Dear Sri Sinha,

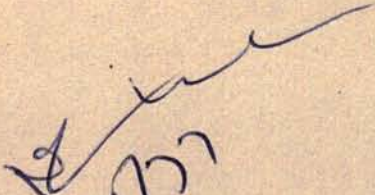
I am enclosing herewith
a copy of the Lok Sabha Unstarred
Q.No.6254 by Sri Samar Guha regard-
ing the aircrash involving Netaji
Subhas Chandra Bose and the reply
given to this question for your
information.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,


(Pravesh Chandra)

Shri N.K.Sinha,
Deputy Secretary,
Ministry of Home Affairs,
New Delhi.


6/8/77

LOK SABHA

Unstarred Question No.

6254

To be answered on

4.8.1977

Tabled by

Shri Samar Guha

Subject:- Air crash involving Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

QUESTION

ANSWER

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mountbatten Diary contained many vital information about Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, particularly regarding alleged air-crash;

(b) If so, whether only a few pages from the Mountbatten Diary were produced before the Shah Nawaz Inquiry Committee and Khosla Commission;

(c) If so, revelation of mystery surrounding disappearance of Netaji, whether Government propose to request Lord Mountbatten as well as the Government of UK for sending a full copy of Mountbatten's Diary to the Government of India; and

(d) If so, the steps proposed or taken thereabout?

(a), (b), (c) and (d):

However
In accordance with a Government of India Notification dated 11th July, 1970, the Central Government appointed a Commission of Inquiry consisting of the retired Chief Justice of the Punjab High Court, Shri G.D.Khosla, as sole member. This Commission was charged with ~~an~~ inquiring into all the facts and circumstances relating to the disappearance of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in 1945 and make its Report to the Central Government. It completed the inquiry and submitted its Report

Unfortunately only the Mountbatten papers were available to us in view of their being classified documents.

- 2 -

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